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EXAMINER

VO, HUYEN X

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2655

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/990,764

Applicant(s)

HINDE ET AL.

Examiner

Huyen Vo

Art Unit

2655

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-63 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-63 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/5/02 & 5/31/02</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 48 is objected to because of the following informalities: claim 48 should not depend on itself. The examiner treats claim 48 being dependent upon claim 47. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 1-2, 4, 6-12, 20-28, 30-33, 35-44, 52-61, and 63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allinger (DE Patent No. 19747745) in view of Baker et al. (GB Patent No. 2348777).

3. Regarding claim 1, Allinger discloses a system for enabling verbal communication on behalf of a local entity with a nearby user, the system comprising:

location determining means for determining the location of the user (*position finding system 7 in figure 1*); means for determining if the location of the user is within the location of entities having associated voice services, these voice services being separately hosted from the entities themselves (*page 6, lines 13-32*); a communications infrastructure (*figure 1, specifically elements 4-7 and 9*); audio output means operatively connected to the communication

infrastructure and either forming part of equipment carried by the user or located in the locality of said local entity (*communication unit 4 in figure 1 worn by the users*); a voice service arrangement for providing said voice service, the voice service arrangement being connected to said communications infrastructure (*Control system 9 in figure 1*); and

service initiation means, responsive to the comparison means determining that the user is close to a said entity, to initiate, automatically or under user control, voice service delivery by the voice service arrangement via the communications infrastructure and the audio output means with the voice service acting as voice proxy for the local entity (*page 5 line 33 to page 6 lines 13-39*); the audio output means comprising multiple sound output devices spaced from the local entity, and means for controlling their sound output such that output from the voice service appears to the user to emanate from said local entity (*page 3, lines 11-22*).

Allinger fails to specifically disclose a comparison means for comparing the location of the user with the known locations. However, Baker et al. disclose a comparison means for comparing the location of the user with the known locations (*figure 2*).

Since Allinger and Baker et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Allinger by incorporating the teaching of Baker et al. in order to determine if user is within a predefined location of the entity to initiate associated voice services.

4. Regarding claim 33, Allinger discloses a method of voice communication concerning a local entity wherein:

(a) determining if the location of a user is within the locations of entities having associated voice services, these voice services being separately hosted from the entities themselves (*pages 5-6*);

(b) upon the user being determined to be close to a said entity, contact is initiated between the user and the voice service associated with the local entity (*pages 5-6*); and

(c) the user interacts with the voice service with the latter acting as voice proxy for the local entity, voice output from the service being through audio output devices spaced from the local entity but controlled such that the service output appears to the user to emanate from that entity (*pages 5-6 and page 1, lines 1-12, the headphones are attached to the exhibits*).

Allinger fails to specifically disclose a comparison means for comparing the location of the user with the known locations. However, Baker et al. disclose a comparison means for comparing the location of the user with the known locations (*figure 2*).

Since Allinger and Baker et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Allinger by incorporating the teaching of Baker et al. in order to determine if user is within a predefined location of the entity to initiate associated voice services.

5. Regarding claim 2, Allinger further discloses a system according to claim 1, wherein the comparison means is separate from any equipment carried by the user (*page 6, line 13-32, processing in the control system 9*), the service initiation means comprising: means responsive to the comparison means determining that the user is close to a said entity, to send contact data for the voice service to the user (*page 6, line 13-32*); and means, provided in user equipment

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intended carried by the user, for receiving the contact data and for enabling the user to contact the voice service arrangement using the contact data in order to initiate voice service delivery (*device 4 worn by the user*).

6. Regarding claim 4, Allinger further discloses a system according to claim 1, further comprising user equipment adapted to communicate with the communications infrastructure over wireless means, the comparison means being separate from the user equipment and the service initiation means being responsive to the comparison means determining that the user is close to a said entity, to pass contact data for the user equipment to the voice service arrangement to enable the latter to initiate contact with the user over the communications infrastructure (*pages 5-6*).

7. Regarding claim 6, Allinger further discloses a system according to claim 1, further comprising audio input means operatively connected to the communications infrastructure and either forming part of equipment carried by the user, or located in the locality of said local entity, the audio input and output means together enabling a user to interact with the voice service through spoken dialog with voice input by the user through the audio input means and voice output to the user through the audio output means (*page 3, lines 1-39*).

8. Regarding claim 7, Allinger further discloses a system according to claim 6, wherein in said dialog the entity is represented in first person terms through the voice service (*page 7*).

9. Regarding claim 8, Allinger further discloses a system according to claim 6, wherein both the audio input and output means form part of the user equipment carried by the user, the user equipment being operative to exchange said voice input and voice output with the voice service as voice signals passed across the communications infrastructure (*page 3, lines 1-39*).

10. Regarding claim 9, Allinger further discloses a system according to claim 6, wherein both the audio input and output means are located in the locality of said entity apart from the user equipment, the voice service arrangement being operative to exchange said voice input and voice output with the audio input and output devices as voice signals passed across the communications infrastructure (*page 1, lines 3-12, speakers located at the entity*).

11. Regarding claim 10, Allinger further discloses a system according to claim 6, wherein the audio input means forms part of equipment carried by the user (*element 6 in figure 1*) and the audio output means is located in the locality of said entity apart from the user equipment (*page 1, lines 3-12, speaker located at the entity*), the voice service arrangement being arranged to exchange said voice input and voice output with the audio input and output devices as voice signals across the communications infrastructure (*figure 1*).

12. Regarding claim 11, Allinger further discloses a system according to claim 1, wherein said multiple sound output devices are headphones worn by the user, the location of the voice service sound output in the audio field generated by the headphones being controlled to take account of the relative positions of the user and entity and rotations of the user's head (*page 6*).

13. Regarding claim 12, Allinger further discloses a system according to claim 1, wherein said multiple sound output devices are loudspeakers associated with the locality of the entity rather than with the user and connected with the voice service through a communications infrastructure (*page 1, lines 3-12, speaker located at the entity*), the sound output from the loudspeakers being controlled in dependence on the relative positions of the user and entity (*page 6*).

14. Regarding claims 20 and 52, Allinger further discloses a system and method according to claims 1 and 33, wherein the communications infrastructure is a proprietary-space local wireless network hosting the voice service arrangement, the local entity being located in the proprietary-space concerned (*figure 1, elements 4-7 and 9-11, wireless communication*).

15. Regarding claims 21 and 53, Allinger further discloses a system and method according to claims 8 and 52, wherein the communications infrastructure is a proprietary-space local wireless network hosting the voice service arrangement, the local entity being located in the proprietary-space concerned and the user equipment comprising a wireless headset (*figure 1*).

16. Regarding claim 22, Allinger further discloses a system according to claim 20, wherein said audio output means comprises headphones worn by the user, the location of the voice service sound output in the audio field generated by the headphones being controlled to take account of the relative positions of the user and entity and rotations of the user's head such that

the sound output appears to be originating from said local entity (*page 1, lines 1-12 and page 5, line 33 to page 6, line 5. The headphone is located at the entity*).

17. Regarding claim 23, Allinger further discloses a system according to claim 1, wherein the location determining means and the comparison means are arranged to operate on an on-going basis (*page 5*).

18. Regarding claim 24, Allinger fails to specifically disclose a method according to claim 1, wherein the location determining means and the comparison means are arranged to operate on a once-off basis as requested by the user. However, Baker et al. further teach a method according to claim 1, wherein the location determining means and the comparison means are arranged to operate on a once-off basis as requested by the user (*pages 10-11*).

Since Allinger and Baker et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Allinger by incorporating the teaching of Baker et al. in order to reduce processing power by determining the position of the user only when requested.

19. Regarding claims 25 and 58, Allinger further discloses that the voice service arrangement is operative to connect a user newly contacting the voice service associated with said entity, into a session with any other users currently using the voice service in respect of the same local entity such that all users at least hear the voice output of the voice service (*page 5, line 33 to page 6,*

information associated with a particular entity being looked at by multiple users, whose location is near the entity, is transmitted to all those users).

20. Regarding claims 26 and 59, Allinger fails to disclose a system and method according to claims 25 and 58, wherein the voice service arrangement is so arranged that voice input from a user is not broadcast to other users joined in the same session unless that input is selected for handling by the voice service. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention that multiple users may be viewing the entity at the same time and at the same location. As a result, the devices worn by these users communicate with the control system independently, and the control system would respond to each device of those users separately by using different frequencies.

21. Regarding claims 27 and 60, Allinger further discloses a system and method according to claims 1 and 33, wherein the voice service arrangement is operative to connect a user newly contacting the voice service into a session with any other users currently using the voice service in respect of the same local entity and other entities that have been logically associated with that entity, the voice inputs and outputs to and from the voice service being made available to all such users (*page 5, line 33 to page 6, information associated with a particular entity being looked at by multiple users, whose location is near the entity, is transmitted to all those users*).

22. Regarding claim 28, Allinger further discloses a system according to claim 1, further comprising functionality associated with the local entity and arranged to be controlled by control data passed to it from the voice service (*page 1, lines 1-12*).

23. Regarding claim 30, Allinger further discloses a system according to claim 1, further comprising means for sensing the position of the user relative to the entity, and means for passing corresponding position data to the voice service, the voice service being operative to condition its output in dependence on the user's sensed position (*figure 1 and pages 5-6*).

24. Regarding claim 31, Allinger further discloses a system according to claim 1, further comprising means for sensing the orientation of the user relative to the entity, and means for passing corresponding orientation data to the voice service, the voice service being operative to condition its output in dependence on the user's sensed orientation (*figure 1 and pages 5-6*).

25. Regarding claim 32, Allinger further discloses a system according to claim 1, further comprising means for sensing the line of approach of the user relative to the entity, and means for passing corresponding line-of approach data to the voice service, the voice service being operative to condition its output in dependence on the user's line of approach (*pages 5-6*).

26. Regarding claim 35, Allinger further discloses a method according to claim 33, wherein step (a) is effected by a service system separate from any equipment carried by the user (*figure 1*), the service system upon determining that the user is close to a said entity, effecting step (b)

by passing contact data for the voice service to a voice browser of the service system or communications infrastructure whereby to enable the voice browser to contact the voice service on behalf of the user (*pages 5-6, specifically the operation of the control system 9*).

27. Regarding claim 36, Allinger further discloses a method according to claim 33, wherein step (a) is effected by a service system separate from any equipment carried by the user (*figure 1*), the service system upon determining that the user is close to a said entity, effecting step (b) by passing user contact information to the voice service whereby to enable the latter to initiate contact with the user (*pages 5-6*).

28. Regarding claim 37, Allinger further discloses a method according to claim 33, wherein step (a) is effected by equipment carried by the user which, upon determining that the user is close to a said entity, effects step (b) by contacting the voice service (*pages 5-6*).

29. Regarding claims 38-39, Allinger further discloses a method according to claim 33, wherein in step (c) the user and voice service interact through spoken dialog with both voice input by the user and voice output by the service (*page 3*), wherein in said dialog the entity is represented in first person terms through the voice service (*page 7*).

30. Regarding claim 40, Allinger further discloses a method according to claim 33, wherein step (c) involves voice input by the user and voice output by the service with both voice input

and voice output being carried across the wireless network between the voice service and sound input and output devices forming part of the user's equipment (*page 3 and figure 1*).

31. Regarding claim 41, Allinger further discloses a method according to claim 33, wherein step (c) involves voice input by the user and voice output by the service with both voice input and voice output being exchanged with the user by local sound input and output devices that are associated with the locality of the entity rather than with the user and are connected with the voice service through a communications infrastructure (*page 1, lines 1-12, the headphones are located at entities*).

32. Regarding claim 42, Allinger further discloses a method according to claim 33, wherein step (c) involves voice input by the user and voice output by the service, voice input being carried across the wireless network to the voice service from a sound input device forming part of the user's equipment (*figure 1*), and voice output being through at least one local sound output device that is associated with the locality of the entity rather than with the user and is connected with the voice service through a communications infrastructure (*page 1, lines 1-12, the headphones are located at entities*).

33. Regarding claim 43, Allinger further discloses a method according to claim 33, wherein said multiple sound output devices are headphones worn by the user, the location of the voice service sound output in the audio field generated by the headphones being controlled to take

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account of the relative positions of the user and entity and rotations of the user's head (*figure 1 and pages 5-6*).

34. Regarding claim 44, Allinger further discloses a method according to claim 33, wherein said multiple sound output devices are loudspeakers associated with the locality of the entity rather than with the user and connected with the voice service through the communications infrastructure, the sound output from the loudspeakers being controlled in dependence on the relative positions of the user and entity (*pages 1 and 5-6*).

35. Regarding claims 54-55, Allinger further discloses a method according to claim 33, wherein the carrying out of step (b) is subject to user approval at the time (*page 7*), and the location determination and comparison with the known location of entities having associated voice services, is effected in step (a) on an on-going basis (*page 5*).

36. Regarding claim 56, Allinger fails to specifically disclose a method according to claim 33, wherein location determination and comparison with the known location of entities having associated voice services, is effected in step (a) on a once-off basis as requested by the user. However, Baker et al. further teach that the location determination and comparison with the known location of entities having associated voice services, is effected in step (a) on a once-off basis as requested by the user (*pages 10-11*).

Since Allinger and Baker et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention

to modify Allinger by incorporating the teaching of Baker et al. in order to reduce processing power by determining the position of the user only when requested.

37. Regarding claim 57, Allinger further discloses a method according to claim 33, wherein in step (b) the identity of the user is sent to the voice service and used by the latter to look up user profile data which is then used to customize the voice service to the user (*pages 5-6, the "learning system" is responsible for building and updating user's profile*).

38. Regarding claim 61, Allinger further discloses a method according to claim 33, wherein the local entity has associated functionality that is controlled by control data passed from the voice service via a network connection or short-range link between the user equipment and said associated functionality of the local entity (*page 1, lines 1-12*).

39. Regarding claim 63, Allinger further discloses a method according to claim 33, wherein the voice service provided to a user is dependent on the user's position, orientation or line of approach relative to the entity (*pages 5-6*).

40. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allinger (DE Patent No. 19747745) in view of Baker et al. (GB Patent No. 2348777), as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Jamison et al. (US Patent No. 6085148).

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41. Regarding claim 5, the modified Allinger fails to specifically disclose a system according to claim 1, further comprising user equipment adapted to communicate with the communications infrastructure over wireless means, at least the comparison means and the service initiation means being provided in the user equipment, the service initiation means being responsive to the comparison means determining that the user is close to a said entity, to contact the voice service arrangement over the communications infrastructure.

However, Jamison et al. teach that the user equipment is adapted to communicate with the communications infrastructure over wireless means, at least the comparison means and the service initiation means being provided in the user equipment, the service initiation means being responsive to the comparison means determining that the user is close to a said entity, to contact the voice service arrangement over the communications infrastructure (*figure 2 or col. 5-6*).

Since the modified Allinger and Jamison et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to further modify Allinger by incorporating the teaching of Jamison et al. in order to reduce processing load at the control system.

42. Claim 34 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allinger (DE Patent No. 19747745) in view of Baker et al. (GB Patent No. 2348777), as applied to claim 33, and further in view of Albukerk et al. (US Patent No. 5929848).

43. Regarding claim 34, Allinger further discloses a method according to claim 33, wherein step (a) is effected by a service system separate from any equipment carried by the user (*figure*

1); the service system upon determining that the user is close to a said entity (*pages 5-6*).

Allinger fails to specifically disclose that if the user is close to the entity, effecting step (b) by passing contact data for the voice service to the user whereby to enable the user to contact the voice service. However, Albukerk et al. teach that if the user is close to the entity, effecting step (b) by passing contact data for the voice service to the user whereby to enable the user to contact the voice service (*col. 8, lines 1-46*).

Since Allinger and Albukerk et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to further modify Allinger by incorporating the teaching of Albukerk et al. in order to enable the user to select and retrieve information about the object of interest for viewing or playing.

44. Claims 3, 13-19 and 45-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allinger (DE Patent No. 19747745) in view of Baker et al. (GB Patent No. 2348777), as applied to claims 1, 6, 8, and 33, and further in view of Scott et al. (WO 00/30329).

45. Regarding claim 3, the modified Allinger further discloses a system according to claim 1, wherein the comparison means is separate from any equipment carried by the user and the voice service arrangement comprises storage means for storing voice service content (*as discussed in claim 1 above*). The modified Allinger fails to specifically disclose a voice browser for interpreting voice service content in respect of multiple different voice services for which content is stored by the storage means, the service initiation means being responsive to the

comparison means determining that the user is close to a said entity, to pass contact data for the corresponding voice service to the voice browser of the voice service arrangement.

However, Scott et al. further teach a voice browser for interpreting voice service content in respect of multiple different voice services for which content is stored by the storage means, the service initiation means being responsive to the comparison means determining that the user is close to a said entity, to pass contact data for the corresponding voice service to the voice browser of the voice service arrangement (*the functionality of IVR Unit in figure 1*).

Since the modified Allinger and Scott et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to further modify Allinger by incorporating the teaching of Scott et al. in order to provide audible responses to user and at the same time maximizing storing space in the database by storing text data.

46. Regarding claim 13, Allinger further discloses a speech recognizer for carrying out speech recognition of user voice input received as voice signals (*page 6*), but fails to disclose a system according to claims 6 and 8, wherein the voice service arrangement comprises: a voice page server for serving voice pages in the form of text with embedded voice markup tags; and a voice browser comprising: a dialog manager for effecting dialog control on the basis of output from the speech recognizer and pages served by the voice page server; and a text-to-speech converter operative to convert voice pages into voice output signals under the control of the dialog manager.

However, Scott et al. teach a voice page server for serving voice pages in the form of text with embedded voice markup tags; and a voice browser comprising: a dialog manager for effecting dialog control on the basis of output from the speech recognizer and pages served by the voice page server; and a text-to-speech converter operative to convert voice pages into voice output signals under the control of the dialog manager (*the functionality of IVR Unit in figures 1-2 or referring to pages 4-6*).

Since the modified Allinger and Scott et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to further modify Allinger by incorporating the teaching of Scott et al. in order to provide audible responses to user and at the same time maximizing storing space in the database by storing text data.

47. Regarding claim 14, the modified Allinger fails to specifically disclose a system according to claim 8, wherein the user equipment comprises a mobile phone providing the said audio input and output means, with wireless communication means of the mobile phone serving for the transfer of voice service input and output to and from the said audio input and output means. However, Scott et al. further teach the user equipment comprises a mobile phone providing the said audio input and output means, with wireless communication means of the mobile phone serving for the transfer of voice service input and output to and from the said audio input and output means (*Caller 4 device in figure 1*).

Since the modified Allinger and Scott et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time

of invention to further modify Allinger by incorporating the teaching of Scott et al. in order to provide conveniences for the user.

48. Regarding claim 15, Allinger further discloses a speech recognizer for carrying out speech recognition of user voice input received as voice signals (*page 6*), but fails to specifically disclose a system according to claim 8, wherein the voice service arrangement comprises: a voice page server for serving voice pages in the form of text with embedded voice markup tags; and a voice browser comprising: a dialog manager for effecting dialog control on the basis of output from the speech recognizer and pages served by the voice page server; and a text-to-speech converter operative to convert voice pages into voice output signals under the control of the dialog manager; the user equipment comprising a mobile phone providing said audio input and output means, with wireless communication means of the mobile phone serving for the transfer of voice service input and output to and from the said audio input and output means.

However, Scott et al. further teach a voice page server for serving voice pages in the form of text with embedded voice markup tags; and a voice browser comprising: a dialog manager for effecting dialog control on the basis of output from the speech recognizer and pages served by the voice page server; and a text-to-speech converter operative to convert voice pages into voice output signals under the control of the dialog manager; the user equipment comprising a mobile phone providing said audio input and output means, with wireless communication means of the mobile phone serving for the transfer of voice service input and output to and from the said audio input and output means (*the functionality of IVR Unit in figures 1-2 or referring to pages 4-6*).

Since the modified Allinger and Scott et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to further modify Allinger by incorporating the teaching of Scott et al. in order to provide audible responses to user and at the same time maximizing storing space in the database by storing text data.

49. Regarding claim 45, the modified Allinger fails to specifically disclose a method according to claim 33, wherein the voice service is effected by the serving of voice pages in the form of text with embedded voice markup tags to a voice browser, the voice browser interpreting these pages and carrying out speech recognition of user voice input, text to speech conversion to generate voice output, and dialog management; the voice browser being disposed between a voice page server and the user. However, Scott et al. teach that the voice service is effected by the serving of voice pages in the form of text with embedded voice markup tags to a voice browser, the voice browser interpreting these pages and carrying out speech recognition of user voice input, text to speech conversion to generate voice output, and dialog management; the voice browser being disposed between a voice page server and the user (*IVR Unit in figure 1*).

Since the modified Allinger and Scott et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to further modify Allinger by incorporating the teaching of Scott et al. in order to provide audible responses to user and at the same time maximizing storing space in the database by storing text data.

50. Regarding claim 46, the modified Allinger fails to specifically disclose a method according to claim 33, wherein the user equipment includes a mobile phone, step (c) involving use of the mobile phone to transfer voice service input and output to and from the user. However, Scott et al. teach that the user equipment includes a mobile phone, step (c) involving use of the mobile phone to transfer voice service input and output to and from the user (*caller 4 in fig. 1*).

Since the modified Allinger and Scott et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to further modify Allinger by incorporating the teaching of Scott et al. in order to provide conveniences for the user.

51. Regarding claim 47, Allinger further discloses a speech recognition step for recognizing the user voice input (*page 6*), but fails to specifically disclose a method according to claim 33, wherein: the voice service is effected by the serving of voice pages in the form of text with embedded voice markup tags to a voice browser, the voice browser interpreting these pages and carrying out speech recognition of user voice input, text to speech conversion to generate voice output, and dialog management; the voice browser being disposed between a voice page server and the user; and the user has equipment including a mobile phone, step (c) involving use of the mobile phone to transfer voice service input and output to and from the user.

However, Scott et al. further teach that the voice service is effected by the serving of voice pages in the form of text with embedded voice markup tags to a voice browser, the voice browser interpreting these pages and carrying out speech recognition of user voice input, text to speech conversion to generate voice output, and dialog management; the voice browser being

disposed between a voice page server and the user; and the user has equipment including a mobile phone, step (c) involving use of the mobile phone to transfer voice service input and output to and from the user (*the functionality of IVR in figures 1-2 or referring to pages 4-6*).

Since the modified Allinger and Scott et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to further modify Allinger by incorporating the teaching of Scott et al. in order to provide audible responses to user and at the same time maximizing storing space in the database by storing text data.

52. Regarding claims 16 and 48, Allinger fails to disclose a system and method according to claims 15 and 47, wherein the voice browser is not part of the user's equipment, the service initiation means being responsive to the comparison means determining that the user is close to a said entity, to pass contact data for the voice service, in the form of a URL, to the user's equipment, the user equipment being operative to pass the contact data to the voice browser via a data-capable bearer circuit set up by the mobile phone through the communications infrastructure, and the voice browser being operative to use the contact data to contact the voice page server and being further operative to establish a voice circuit with the mobile phone for the exchange of voice input and/or output between the user and voice browser.

However, Scott et al. further teach that the voice browser is not part of the user's equipment, the service initiation means being responsive to the comparison means determining that the user is close to a said entity, to pass contact data for the voice service, in the form of a URL, to the user's equipment, the user equipment being operative to pass the contact data to the

voice browser via a data-capable bearer circuit set up by the mobile phone through the communications infrastructure, and the voice browser being operative to use the contact data to contact the voice page server and being further operative to establish a voice circuit with the mobile phone for the exchange of voice input and/or output between the user and voice browser (*the operation in figure 1*).

Since the modified Allinger and Scott et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to further modify Allinger by incorporating the teaching of Scott et al. in order for the system to communicate with the user to better assist them learn more about the exhibit by both audible and visual responses.

53. Regarding claims 17 and 49, Allinger fails to disclose a system and method according to claims 15 and 48, wherein the voice browser is not part of the user's equipment, the service initiation means being responsive to the comparison means determining that the user is close to a said entity, to pass contact data for the voice service, in the form of a URL, to the user's equipment, the user equipment being operative to pass the contact data to the voice browser via a data-capable bearer circuit set up by the mobile phone through the communications infrastructure, and the voice browser being operative to use the contact data to access the voice page server and to thereafter use the data-capable bearer circuit for voice input and/or output between the user and voice browser using a packetized voice protocol.

However, Scott et al. further teach that the voice browser is not part of the user's equipment, the service initiation means being responsive to the comparison means determining

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that the user is close to a said entity, to pass contact data for the voice service, in the form of a URL, to the user's equipment, the user equipment being operative to pass the contact data to the voice browser via a data-capable bearer circuit set up by the mobile phone through the communications infrastructure, and the voice browser being operative to use the contact data to access the voice page server and to thereafter use the data-capable bearer circuit for voice input and/or output between the user and voice browser using a packetized voice protocol (*the operation in figure 1*).

Since the modified Allinger and Scott et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to further modify Allinger by incorporating the teaching of Scott et al. in order for the system to communicate with the user to better assist them learn more about the exhibit by both audible and visual responses.

54. Regarding claims 18 and 50, Allinger fails to disclose a system and method according to claims 15 and 48, wherein the voice browser is part of the user's equipment, the service initiation means being responsive to the comparison means determining that the user is close to a said entity, to pass contact data for the voice service, in the form of a URL, to the user's equipment, the voice browser being operative to use the contact data passed to the equipment to access the voice page server via a data-capable bearer circuit set up by the mobile phone through the communications infrastructure for the exchange of text based input and/or output between the voice browser and voice page server.

However, Scott et al. further teach that the voice browser is part of the user's equipment, the service initiation means being responsive to the comparison means determining that the user is close to a said entity, to pass contact data for the voice service, in the form of a URL, to the user's equipment, the voice browser being operative to use the contact data passed to the equipment to access the voice page server via a data-capable bearer circuit set up by the mobile phone through the communications infrastructure for the exchange of text based input and/or output between the voice browser and voice page server (*the operation in figure 1*).

Since the modified Allinger and Scott et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to further modify Allinger by incorporating the teaching of Scott et al. in order for the system to communicate with the user to better assist them learn more about the exhibit by both audible and visual responses.

55. Regarding claims 19 and 51, Allinger fails to disclose a system and method according to claims 15 and 48, wherein the voice browser is not part of the user's equipment, the service initiation means being responsive to the comparison means determining that the user is close to a said entity, to pass contact data for the voice service, in the form of a URL, directly to the voice browser together with information for contacting the user's equipment, the voice browser being arranged to contact the user on the mobile phone using a voice circuit or data connection that is then used for voice input/or and output between the user and voice browser.

However, Scott et al. further teach that the voice browser is not part of the user's equipment, the service initiation means being responsive to the comparison means determining

that the user is close to a said entity, to pass contact data for the voice service, in the form of a URL, directly to the voice browser together with information for contacting the user's equipment, the voice browser being arranged to contact the user on the mobile phone using a voice circuit or data connection that is then used for voice input/or and output between the user and voice browser (*the operation in figure 1*).

Since the modified Allinger and Scott et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to further modify Allinger by incorporating the teaching of Scott et al. in order for the system to communicate with the user to better assist them learn more about the exhibit by both audible and visual responses.

56. Claims 29 and 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allinger (DE Patent No. 19747745) in view of Baker et al. (GB Patent No. 2348777), as applied to claims 28 and 61, and further in view of Chen et al. (US Patent No. 5907351).

57. Regarding claims 29 and 62, the modified Allinger fails to specifically disclose a system and method according to claims 28 and 61, wherein said functionality includes a mouth-like feature movable by in dependence on the control data from the voice service whereby to cause operation of the mouth-like feature in synchronism with voice output from the voice service.

However, Chen et al. teach that the functionality includes a mouth-like feature movable by in dependence on the control data from the voice service whereby to cause operation of the mouth-like feature in synchronism with voice output from the voice service (*col. 4-5*).

Since the modified Allinger and Chen et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to further modify Allinger by incorporating the teaching of Chen et al. in order to audiovisual presentation to the user to enhance human perception of speech.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Huyen Vo whose telephone number is 703-305-8665. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doris To can be reached on 703-305-4827. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Examiner Huyen X. Vo

September 2, 2004


SUSAN MCFADDEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER